

U.S. Census Bureau, the recently arrived immigrant and refugee population living here today will account for 75 percent of the total U.S. population growth over the next 50 years. This growth is occurring in places like New York, Los Angeles, and Miami, but also in nontraditional immigrant communities like Gainesville, GA, and Fremont County, ID. Innovative programs are being offered across the country to help accommodate these populations, which is why I have once again introduced the Immigrants to New Americans Act. This legislation will create a competitive grant program within the Department of Education that funds model programs, which, one, help immigrant children to succeed in America's classrooms and, two, help their families access community services such as job training, transportation, counseling, and child care.

Our country's diversity is growing and it is vital for us to support successful programs like the Georgia Project that address the needs of changing communities.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

• Mr. LUGAR, Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a group of young Indiana students who have shown great educational achievement. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the winners of the 2000-2001 Eighth Grade Youth Essay Contest which I sponsored in association with the Indiana Farm Bureau and Bank One of Indiana. These students have displayed strong writing abilities and have proven themselves to be outstanding young Hoosier scholars. I submit their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because they demonstrate the capabilities of today's students and are fine representatives of our Nation.

This year, Hoosier students wrote on the theme, "Eating Around the World From Hoosier Farms." I would like to submit for the RECORD the winning essays of John Leer of Hamilton County, and Michelle Kennedy of Jasper County. As State winners of the Youth Essay Contest, these two outstanding students are being recognized on Friday, March 16, 2001 during a visit to our Nation's Capitol.

The essays are as follows:

#### EATING AROUND THE WORLD FROM HOOSIER FARMS

(By John Leer, Hamilton County)

Jean woke up on a crisp, Canadian morning to the smell of moist hot cakes baking on the skillet; to accent the hot cakes, Jean's mother had prepared apple compote with sweet brown sugar. Fresh sausage patties were succulently sizzling in their own oils and grease. On this particular morning,

Jean thought to himself of the rich Canadian culture this meal represented. To his own dismay, however, his mother told him most of the ingredients used had come from the farms of Indiana.

After looking deeper into the issue, Jean too realized that most of his food had originated in the Midwest and especially in Indiana. If something were to happen to the farms of Indiana, he would be devastated. He would miss the grain used in the bread, all of the pork and beef, and even the chilled glass of milk used to wash down a chocolate chip cookie.

Then, Jean went outside to accomplish his daily, morning chores of feeding the oxen and cleaning their stalls; he noticed that in bold letters the sack said the feed was made in Indiana. The idea that his entire daily routine depended on a successful yield from Hoosier farms scared him; if a long drought began or a downfall of water occurred, he would not be eating hot cakes or drinking milk very much longer. The Hoosier farmer was invaluable to him.

Throughout the day he noticed more foods of his daily diet grown in Indiana: melons, tomatoes, pumpkins, corn, and more. During geography class, Jean learned that Indiana is a leading importer to Canada and that Canada depends on the Hoosier fields. After getting off the school bus, he raced towards the television only to turn on the weather station; he had finally realized that Indiana food and weather played a critical role in his daily life.

#### EATING AROUND THE WORLD FROM HOOSIER FARMS

(By Michelle Kennedy, Jasper County)

As an eighth grade student from the country of Japan, I enjoy many American products. My day starts early in the morning. As I prepare for my school day I usually have breakfast which might include eggs and sausage from Indiana farms. Grains from Indiana farms are imported so we might enjoy cereals, breads, and pastries.

Japan does not have the space available for farmground or livestock operations. What we have are very small farms. Indiana grains and livestock products are very important to us. We grow much rice but, other products such as pork, beef, and poultry are needed to compliment our rice industry.

After a day of school I might stroll through the open markets in our city. These market places have fruits and vegetables from the Hoosier farms. In Japan we are always studying new technology. We are very interested in by-products of Indiana farmers.

Many things I use at school are by-products of American farms. Soy ink and soy crayons are by-products of Indiana soybeans. It is important for countries in the world to be able to trade with one another. We are all dependant upon each other.

Japan buys 8.9 billion dollars of United States Agriculture products each year. Indiana agriculture plays a big part in this.

#### 2000-2001 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

District 1: Christopher Wacnik (Lake County) and Megan Spillman (St. Joseph County).

District 2: Andrew Pasquali (Noble County) and Natalie Rummel (Elkhart County).

District 3: Mitchell Swan (Jasper County) and Michelle Kennedy (Jasper County).

District 4: Jacob Little (Jay County) and Janna Rines (Jay County).

District 5: Tyler Smith (Hendricks County) and Laura Trust (Morgan County).

District 6: John Leer (Hamilton County) and Jeri Boone (Hamilton County).

District 7: Kegan Knust (Clay County) and Nicole Dike (Knox County).

District 8: Carson Ritz (Franklin County) and Erin Rauch (Franklin County).

District 9: John Michel (Warrick County) and Michelle Jochim (Gibson County).

District 10: Max Muhoray (Jefferson County) and Jennifer Prickel (Ripley County).

#### 2000-2001 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

Benton: Jesse Becker and Carolyn Jenkinson; Cass: John Workman and Julie Richardson; Clay: Kegan Knust and Nicole Hayes; Delaware: Cais Hasan and Aleisha Fetters; Elkhart: Natalie Rummel; Fayette: Sarah King; Franklin: Carson Ritz and Erin Rauch; Fulton: Thomas Landis and Alicia Long; Gibson: Michelle Jochim; Greene: Alex Weathers and Jessica Chaney; Hamilton: John Leer and Jeri Boone.

Hendricks: Tyler Smith; Jackson: Kim Meier; Jasper: Mitchell Swan and Michelle Kennedy; Jay: Jacob Little and Janna Rines; Jefferson: Max Muhoray and Amanda Simmons; Jennings: Wayne Carmickle and Andrea Webster; Knox: Josh Anthis and Nicole Dike; Lake: Christopher Wacnik and Aubrette Marie Biegel; Marion: Ben Campbell and Fatima Patino; Martin: Nicole Lengacher; Morgan: Laura Trusty.

Noble: Andrew Pasquali; Posey: Tracie Johnson; Ripley: Jennifer Prickel and Jeremy Borgman; St. Joseph: Daniel Seitz and Megan Spillman; Starke: John Gibson and Sonya Crouch; Vanderburgh: Mark Turpin; Vermillion: Marvin Woolwine and Kelli Knight; Wabash: Matt Street and Mandy Renbarger; Warrick: John Michel and Erika Downey; Washington: Ryan Satterfield and Ashley Ingram; Wayne: Nick Kerschner and Anne Hamilton.●

#### NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. MILLER, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the achievements of the Blue Ridge Rifles and Color Guard of North Georgia College and State University, who recently placed first overall at the 29th annual Tulane Naval ROTC Mardi Gras Invitational Drill Meet in New Orleans, LA.

The North Georgia College and State University is one of six 4-year military colleges in the United States. Since its inception in 1873, NGCSU's military college has been renowned for its ability to produce exceptional officers in all service branches. This skill has resulted in many performance championships, including 12 titles from the Mardi Gras Drill Meet.

The Mardi Gras Invitational Drill Meet draws teams representing the service academies, senior and junior military colleges, and reserve officer training corps programs at civilian colleges and universities. The Blue Ridge Rifles and the Color Guard of NGCSU have exhibited consistently excellent performances at the Mardi Gras Invitational. This tradition continued with the most recent Mardi Gras Invitation Drill Meet, held on February 23, 2001, where the NGCSU cadets competed against 42 military drill teams from colleges and universities throughout the United States. The Blue Ridge Rifles, under the command of Cadet Captain Phillip Pelphry and Cadet Master